

EERIE

#133



WARREN  
MAGAZINE

AUG. 1982

# EERIE

\$2.00  
WPS 37926

FROM THE  
HORRORS OF  
THE SPANISH  
INQUISITION TO  
THE TERRORS  
OF TODAY...  
SHE LIVES!

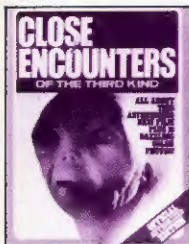


BEAUTY  
SORCERESS  
PHANTOM...  
**FLEUR!**

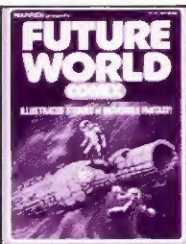




# WARREN SPECIAL ISSUE MAGAZINES



**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS** The magazine of the movie filled with facts, photos (color & B&W), features and effects! 8 1/2" x 11" 72 pages! CE—\$2.50



**FUTURE WORLD COMIX** A fabulous 8 1/2" x 11", 72 page comic book featuring 6 spectacular tales by Corben, Torrents, Maroto and others! FW—\$2.50



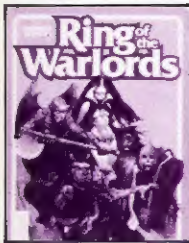
**STAR QUEST COMIX** Corben strikes twice along with Maroto and Neary! And there is a Star Wars article with lots of photos, 8 1/2" x 11" 72 pgs! SQ—\$2.50



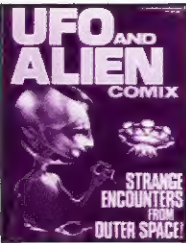
**LORD OF THE RINGS** Our exclusive magazine version of the movie masterpiece! A spectacular 49 pages, all in full color! 8 1/2" x 11" LOR—\$3.00



**GALACTIC WARS COMIX** Wood, Williamson, Torrents and others in this 80 page 8 1/2" x 11" comic with a 10 page article on Galactic! GWC—\$2.50



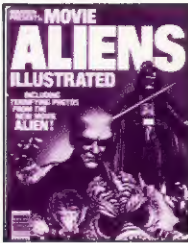
**RING OF THE WARLORDS** 6 brilliant sword & sorcery tales in an 80 page comic book format! Maroto, Mayo, Wood, DuBay and others! RWL—\$2.50



**UFO AND ALIEN COMIX** Here are 7 special closer encounters with aliens of every stripe! An 8 1/2" x 11", 72 page, black and white comic format! UFO—\$2.50



**ALIEN INVASION COMIX** 8 spectacular comic stories by the very best of Warren's writers & artists plus an article on ALIEN! 72 pgs! AIC—\$2.50



**MOVIE ALIENS ILLUSTRATED** Seven in-depth articles on classic alien movie invasions from the pages of Famous Monsters! 72 pgs! MAI—\$2.50



**METEOR, THE SPECTACULAR SF film in magazine format.** See how the SF was done, read an exclusive behind the scenes interviews! MET—\$2.50



**MOONRAKER:** Bond is back! 23 spectacular color photos, exclusive interviews with cast and crew, hundreds of photos, a collector's edition! MNR—\$3.00



**ROOK:** Cover to cover Bermejo with outstanding writers Bill DuBay and Budd Lewis. Collect this extraordinary introductory Rook issue! RKI—\$4.00



**DRACULA '79:** The Collector's edition of Vampires form the movies and comics. Lugosi, Lee and Langella! A complete photo history! D79—\$2.50



**STRANGE STORIES OF VAMPIRES** Blood suckers past, present, and future! With Duranico, Goodwin, Mayo, DuBay, Sanchez, Severin, and many more! VMPP—\$2.50



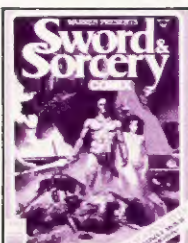
**ALIEN:** Interviews with Giger and others! Photos and analysis of the alien! Possible sequels examined! Chest-bursting in color! AL—\$2.50



**PANTHA:** All Pantha, all Auralion, all spectacular issue as the sleek huntress finds danger and romance at every turn! PTH—\$2.50



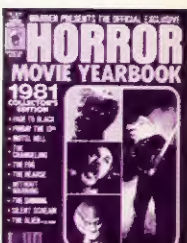
**EMPIRE ENCOUNTERS:** Photos and stories of "The Empire Strikes Back" plus illustrated comics by Bermejo and more! EE—\$2.50



**SWORD & SORCERY COMIX** Sorcerers, demons, dragons, and skull-bashing barbarians in blood and guts action and enchantment! SS—\$2.50

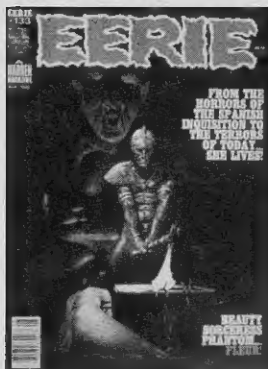


**REX HAVOC:** Non-stop action as Rex and his "Raiders of the Fantastic" search the world over for monsters to destroy! RXH—\$2.50



**HORROR MOVIE YEARBOOK:** An instant collector's item! '81's best, including "Alien," "The Shining," "Freaky Friday," "Friday the 13th" and many more! HMY—\$2.50

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# EERIE

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## EERIE'S EARFUL 4

Cousin Eerie is proud to announce a brand-new feature in his near-perfect magazine...an entire page devoted to Warren Publishing news! From Gonzalez to the Goblin...you heard it here first!



## DESTINY'S SWITCH 5

Each night, Elizabeth's dreams were invaded by vampires, witches, and ghouls! She knew that the wolfsbane would protect her... but what could save the others from the terrible evil within her?



## LEGEND 17

The dank, web-shrouded dungeons of Chelidonium the witchfinder were teeming with wretched, damned souls! Fleur could save herself.....but only with the aid of her most potent magics!



## YOUNG AND GAY 29

Fleur shrieked when she saw the disease-ridden rat skittering across the floor at her! But she didn't so much as blink when the rat spoke eloquently of the urgency of his life-or-death mission!



## ALLEY CATS 40

In the dizzying, kaleidoscopic disco nightworld, even a sorceress who had lived for centuries could lose herself in the crowd! But just as easily could she forfeit her life to a soulless human predator!



## THE QUEST 49

The awesomely beautiful amazon has come to the city to find peace from the turmoil of war and to join in the quest to touch the heavens! But soon she finds that, to reach the Gods...blood must be spilled!

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# EERIE'S EXCITING EARFUL

We finally decided to deliver the feature that **EERIE** fans have been requesting for years! But, darn it, we couldn't remember what it was! So here's the next best thing...**EERIE'S AMAZING EARFUL**, featuring late-breaking news on current and upcoming **Warren** magazines!



## INTRODUCING...THE GOBLIN!

We haven't been this excited since **Vampirella** started teething! **Warren** is finally making its first full-length foray into the super-hero field with...**THE GOBLIN!** It's our newest magazine, and it's devoted to the adventures of the craziest concatenation of super-heroes imaginable! Yes, super-heroes...those long-johned leading men we all grew up with! Now we figure it's about time for them to grow up with us!



But you know we don't do **anything** the traditional way! For proof, check our first-issue lineup:

**Phineas Snudge**, a 19th-century mystic, left behind a book of mystic chants. Pretty standard sorcerer's fare, really...except for the sequence which, when recited correctly, transforms the speaker into a mighty-muscled, mischief-minded blue demon...**The Goblin!**

Led by the besotted **Philo Photon**, the **Troll Patrol** stampedes through the universe, righting wrongs, battling evil...and generally making a bollix of everything they touch!

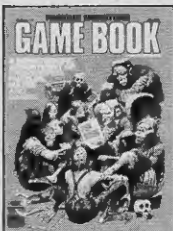
**Wizard Wormglow**...magician theatrical-magician practical! The sorcerer of the future with a medieval sensibility! Inventor of the Negative Neutron Bomb, the Chameleon Suit, and other boons to humankind! But can his mystic powers prevail against...**Snake Eyes Snootie**?

**The Micro-Buccaners**...a band of freebooting swashbucklers (or is that freewashing boot-bucklers?) who seek to put the earth to the torch!

Flying saucers land at the Kremlin and the White House! From each exits a **Tin Man** who tells the earth's leaders that they'll either have to clean up their act...or their ashes!

Get the idea? Good! Now read on for information about the **special bonus** you'll find in the centerfold of every issue of **The Goblin!**

For you **FAMOUS MONSTERS** fans who turn to the "Graveyard Examiner" pages first...our **FM GAME BOOK** is a fearless not to be missed! It's shock-full of crosswords, mazes, games, quizzes...even a write-your-own-horror-movie section!



## TOTH AND DITKO SPECIALS!

We don't need a safe to fall on top of us! The sales figures for our **Wally Wood** and **Al Williamson** collector's editions (**EERIE** #131 and **CREEPY** #137, respectively) have led us to schedule more portfolio issues. For **CREEPY** #139 (on sale May 18th), we've selected the best stories **Alex Toth** has ever done for us (and the **Oscars** committee thought they had a tough job!). Also, fans of **Ramon Torrents** will want to read the announcement below concerning **EERIE** #133! And coming this summer...an all **Steve Ditko** spectacular! Any additional suggestions? We're paid to listen!

## FREE COLOR COMIC INSERTS!

Two comics for the price of one! Sure, we produce the best magazine-format comics on the market...but now we're going to show the makers of the little four-color funny books how it's done! For openers, each issue of our new **GOBLIN** magazine will contain a full-color, comic book sized insert! More important, each non-reprint issue of **EERIE** will contain a similar insert...featuring a different costumed superhero every month! Get it? Mainstream superhero comics...a field we've never really dabbled in till now! And we want you fans to get involved. If you have any daring, different ideas for new super-heroes, send them our way! If your idea is accepted, you'll see your name in print, get a free monster game, and...who knows? Maybe your costumed creation will get a regular four-color comic book of his own!

## MULTICOLORED MONSTERS!

And speaking of color...if you thought that **FAMOUS MONSTERS** was scary in black and white, wait until you see the 8-page color section beginning in issue #186 (on sale June 29)!

## GONZALEZ BACK ON VAMPI!

**Jose Gonzalez** is back...and **Warren's** got him! (Would we mention it if someone else had him?) This news comes as no surprise to those who savored the breathtaking graphics in **VAMPIRELLA** #s 103 and 104! For those who didn't...issue #106 features **Pepe's** most mind-blowing masterwork to date! And more is on the way! (If you think that has the hollow ring of an empty promise...how does "The Return of the Starbeast in issue #108" sound? Yes, the award-winning **Pepe Gonzalez** has returned to **Vampi!** Oh, he didn't come cheap...but nothing is too good for the fans of **Gonzalez Publishing!**

## WARREN PRESENTS...YOU!

Be honest! Did you know there's a magazine called **WARREN PRESENTS**? You may not...because each time it appears, it has a different title. What's more, it's published according to no regular schedule, but whenever we come up with a concept too big to slot into one of our regular magazines. Past issues have been devoted to **The Rook**, **Pantha**, **Rex Havoc**, sword and sorcery, **UFO's** the movies **ALIEN** and **MOONRAKER**, etc., etc. We'd like to publish more of these special issues...but we'd also like you to buy them! Which is why we're asking: what character or concept do you feel deserves a shot in **WP**? Fact or fiction, comics or chronicle, all-new material or compilations from past issues...if there's sufficient demand, we'll do it! So what if we work ourselves into an early grave?

## ZUD KAMISH KNISHED!

Super-heroes have died and returned from the dead. Less often, they've died and remained dead. But no comic book character ever met a fate like that which befalls **Zud Kamish** in the final installment of his series, in the upcoming **EERIE** #134! Don't flip to the last page to find out, or you'll ruin the surprise! Read it from the beginning...but sit down first!



# COMING WARREN MAGAZINES

**1994 #25:** Searing science fiction for the over-18 set! Featuring **Ghita** by **Frank Thorne**, and **Angel** by **DuBay** and **Nebres**! Plus **Jones** and **Maroto's** **Diana Jacklighter**...a senses-staggering 10-page spread by **Alex Nino**...and still more!  
ON SALE APRIL 27!

**VAMPI #106:** **Tristan** returns...or does he? **Gonzalez** at his greatest! And who is **Arrowsmith**...and how will he alter the life of **Pantha**? Plus...**Jeremy** trapped by savages! **Far East** frenzy with **The Fox!** **Sweetwater Nettle!** And an outer-space extra!  
ON SALE MAY 4!

**GOBLIN #1:** Super-heroes with a super-difference! Featuring **The Tin Man**, **Wizard Wormglow**, **The Micro-Buccaners**, and the schemin' blue demon himself! Plus, an 8-page color comic insert starring **The Troll Patrol!** Reserve your #1 issue now!  
ON SALE APRIL 20!

**CREEPY #139:** An all-**Alex Toth** portfolio issue! Including the classic "Daddy and the Pie" by **DuBay**, and **Archie Goodwin's** "Survival," "Rude Awakening," "The Monument" and "Grave Undertaking"! Plus more titanic **Toth** tales, and bio!  
ON SALE MAY 18!

**FAMOUS MONSTERS #186:** The latest on the fear film front! Including features on...**"Star Trek II: The Vengeance of Khan"**! **John Carpenter's** "The Thing"! **"Conan"**! **"Bladerunner"** starring **Harrison Ford**! It's every monster fan's fantasy!  
ON SALE JUNE 1!

THIS NIGHT, AS SO MANY NIGHTS BEFORE, LIZABETH'S SLEEP WAS **RESTLESS...** FITFULL! HER **DREAMS** BROUGHT **MONSTERS** INTO HER ROOM... **VAMPIRES** **WITCHES**, **GHOULS**! BUT LIZABETH KNEW... THAT SHE WAS PROTECTED FROM HARM BY THE **WOLFSBANE** ON HER PILLOW!



GOOD! THE **WOLFSBANE** HAS BEEN REMOVED! NOW I CAN DO...

MOANNNN...

HOLD IT, WOMAN!



ARA! SO YOU ARE THE **VAMPIRE** WHO'S BEEN SUCKING THE **BLOOD** FROM MY DAUGHTER LISBETH!

NO, MR. CROWWELL! YOU ARE **MISTAKEN!**



EVER SINCE WE BROUGHT YOU OVER FROM ENGLAND AS AN **INDENTURED SERVANT**, THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN THE **TARGET** FOR THE **DEVIL'S WORK**! I'VE LONG SUSPECTED YOU WERE A **WITCH**!

IT'S **NOT** THE WAY IT LOOKS, SIR. I'VE FOUND THAT THIS PLANT WILL DO MORE **HARM** THAN **GOOD** FOR LISBETH. IT WILL **ATTRACT** THE EVIL RATHER THAN **REPEL** IT.

WHA... WHAT? FATHER?



# DESTINY'S WITCH

I USED THIS PLANT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATION OF REV.  
GOODPERSON HIMSELF. WHO  
ARE YOU TO GO AGAINST  
HIS WISDOM?

I LEARNED  
WHAT I *KNOW*  
FROM MOTHER  
HASTINGS... THE  
OLD WOMAN  
IN THE WOODS.

WHAT'S  
HAPPENED?  
HAS LISBETH  
HAD ANOTHER  
VISITATION?

ARA TRIED TO  
REMOVE THE WOLFSBANE  
PINNED OVER LISBETH'S BED...  
AND THUS ALLOW ANOTHER  
VISIT FROM THE VAMPIRE.

THAT'S  
NOT THE  
WAY IT  
IS...!

DON'T *RUN*  
AWAY, WENCH!  
WE'LL CATCH  
YOU... AND IT'LL BE  
THAT MUCH THE  
WORSE FOR  
YOU!

I'LL BE  
BACK...

...AT A TIME OF  
MY OWN CHOOSING...  
TO GIVE YOU THE JUSTICE  
YOU SO RICHLY  
DESERVE...!

ARA!  
WAIT!

ARA! I KNOW OLD  
MAN CROMWELL WON'T  
LET US MARRY, BUT THAT'S  
NO REASON TO *RUN*  
FROM ME!

QUIET YOURSELF  
NOW TELL ME WHAT  
HAPPENED.

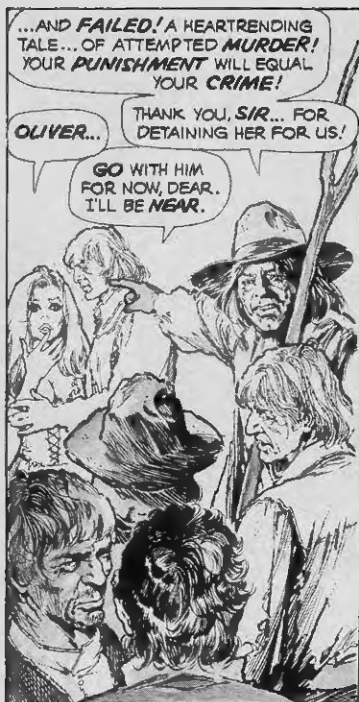
OH, OLIVER. I'D  
THINK IT *FUNNY* IF IT  
HAPPENED TO SOMEONE  
ELSE. CROMWELL WILL NOT  
LET ME WED YOU UNTIL  
LISBETH IS MARRIED. AND  
WITH A FACE LIKE *HERS* IT  
COULD TAKE YEARS... AND  
A LARGE BRIBE!

THIS WEEK SHE WAS STRIKEN  
WITH THAT STRANGE *WASTING*  
DISEASE WHICH HAS CLAIMED  
SO MANY LIVES.

I KNEW THAT IF  
SHE *DIED*, THE BARRIER  
WOULD NO LONGER EXIST.

SO, I TRIED TO REMOVE  
THE WOLFSBANE...

NOT FROM  
YOU, OLIVER... FROM  
HIM! I AM A SLAVE IN HIS  
HOUSEHOLD... LIKE THE  
BLACKS IN THE SOUTHERN  
COLONIES.



...AND **FAILED!** A HEARTRENDING TALE... OF ATTEMPTED **MURDER!** YOUR **PUNISHMENT** WILL EQUAL YOUR **CRIME!**

OLIVER...

THANK YOU, **SIR...** FOR DETAINING HER FOR US!

GO WITH HIM FOR NOW, DEAR. I'LL BE **NEAR.**

THE NEXT DAY...THE **SABBATH**, THE DAY OF **REST...** WHEN ALL GOOD CHRISTIANS GO TO **CHURCH**, THE CROMWELLS ARE NO EXCEPTION.



YOU HAVE TOO MANY UNSIGHTLY **BRUISES**, DEAR ARA. YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY GO TO SERVICES LIKE THAT. PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE **WRONG IDEA.**

WHAT WOULD THEY **THINK**, **SIR?** THAT YOU **PUNISH** ME... **BEAT** ME...?

ARE YOU **STRONG** ENOUGH, LISBETH?

**YES, MOTHER.** I CAN COME WITH YOU.



WATCH YOUR MOUTH, YOUNG LADY! YOU DON'T **MOVE** FROM THIS HOUSE UNTIL WE **RETURN!**

BUT NO SOONER HAVE THE CROMWELLS DISAPPEARED OUT THE **FRONT DOOR** THAN ARA FLIES OUT THE **BACK DOOR** AND INTO THE DEEP WOODS...




MOTHER HASTINGS? ARE YOU **HERE?**

COME IN, ARA! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TODAY, MY CHILD. I THOUGHT THEY FORCED **CHURCH ATTENDANCE** ONTO YOU.

MY GOD! THOSE **BRUISES!** WHAT DID THAT **MONSTER** DO TO YOU?

**PUNISHMENT!** THAT'S WHY I'M NOT IN **CHURCH**. SINCE HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO **EXPLAIN** IT SATISFACTORILY, HE'S KEEPING ME **OUT OF VIEW!**






I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER. HE **SUSPECTS** ME! I MUST MASTER THE **TEACHINGS NOW...** BEFORE HE TAKES **ACTION** AGAINST ME!

**STUDY THIS BOOK CAREFULLY.** IT WILL TAKE YOU THE NEXT STEPS ALONG THE ROAD OF **MASTERY.** AND DON'T LET CROMWELL DISCOVER THIS! IT WOULD MEAN YOUR **INSTANT DEATH** IN THAT FANATIC RIDDEN COMMUNITY!

HE HAS NEVER DISCOVERED THEM **BEFORE!** HE WILL NOT DO SO **NOW!**

ARA TAKES HER **LEAVE** AND QUIETLY ENTERS THE TOWN, ONLY TO BE **CONFRONTED BY...**



**INDIANS!** WHAT ARE THEY DOING **HERE?**

I CAN ASSURE YOU, CHIEF, THAT **NO PERSON** FROM THIS VILLAGE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE **DEATH** OF THE **INDIAN GIRL.**

A **WHITE MAN** WAS SEEN LEAVING OUR CAMP LAST NIGHT. **GIRL** FOUND DEAD THIS MORNING...

...WITH **ALL BLOOD SUCKED OUT.**




I CAN ASSURE YOU...

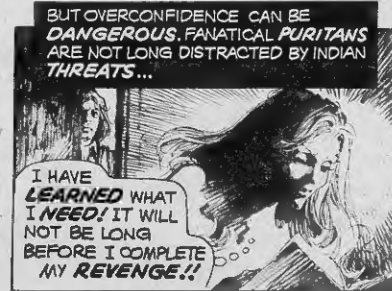
...OF **NOTHING!** FIRST YOU **STEAL** OUR LANDS AND GAME. NOW YOU **STEAL** OUR **LIVES!** BEWARE! WE SHALL **PROTECT** OUR OWN!

FROM THAT MOMENT, A GRIM BLANKET OF **FOREBODING** SETTLES OVER THE SMALL TOWN. ALL THOUGHTS TURN TO **DEFENSE.** EVEN THE FANATIC CROMWELL **FORGETS** HIS SERVANT GIRL!

CONFIDENT OF HER **SAFETY** DURING THE TIME OF CRISIS, ARA **PROBES DEEPLY** INTO THE **BOOK** GIVEN HER BY HER **TEACHER.**



BUT OVERCONFIDENCE CAN BE **DANGEROUS.** FANATIC **PURITANS** ARE NOT LONG DISTRACTED BY INDIAN **THREATS...**



I HAVE **LEARNED** WHAT I **NEED!** IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE I COMPLETE MY **REVENGE!!**

APPARENTLY THE **PRECAUTIONS** TAKEN IN TOWN HAVE **DRIVEN** THE MONSTER TO THE SAVAGES' VILLAGE.



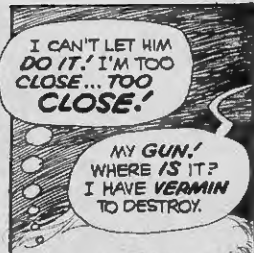


WITCH! DEMON!  
I SHALL KILL YOU WITH  
MY OWN HANDS FOR  
DEFILING THIS  
HOUSE!

AAAHHH!!  
WHAT!!



I'LL GET MY  
GUN... AND DEAL  
WITH YOU IN THE  
ONLY WAY  
POSSIBLE!



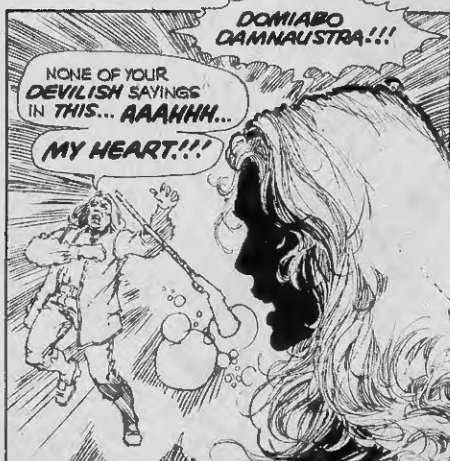
I CAN'T LET HIM  
DO IT! I'M TOO  
CLOSE... TOO  
CLOSE!

MY GUN!  
WHERE IS IT?  
I HAVE VERMIN  
TO DESTROY.



THE INCANTATION...  
WHAT IS THE INCANTATION  
I NEED?

MAKE PEACE  
WITH YOUR CREATOR,  
GIRL! YOU HAVE ONLY  
SECONDS TO  
LIVE.



DOMIABO  
DAMNAUSTRA!!!

NONE OF YOUR  
DEVILISH SAYINGS  
IN THIS... AAAHHH...

MY HEART!!



MY GOD!  
WHAT HAPPENED?

HE HAD SOME  
SORT OF SEIZURE  
WHILE CLIMBING THE  
STAIRS.

DON'T...  
BELIEVE...  
HER...



ARA IS... A WITCH!  
THIS IS HER... BOOK...  
OF SPELLS. SHE...  
HEXED ME... HEXED...  
M...

A WITCH...  
UNDER OUR  
ROOF?



TAKE HEED,  
WOMAN. ONE WHO  
TRIED TO TAKE THIS  
FROM ME LIES DEAD  
AT YOUR FEET.

GIVE ME  
THAT BOOK...

ARA RUSHES PAST THE STRIKEN WOMAN AND  
OUT INTO THE NIGHT...

I MUST  
GET OUT OF  
THIS TOWN  
BEFORE SHE  
CAN RAISE AN  
ALARM.



ARA! STOP!  
YOU CAN'T LEAVE  
TOWN. AN ATTACK  
MAY BE LAUNCHED  
ANY MOMENT.  
THERE HAVE BEEN  
MANY INCIDENTS  
IN THE LAST FEW  
DAYS.

LET ME  
PASS, OLIVER.  
THERE IS  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT  
I MUST  
ATTEND  
TO.

IN THE  
FOREST... AT THIS  
TIME OF NIGHT?  
YOU'D BE KILLED  
BEFORE YOU  
REACHED...



...THE...  
HUH?! ARA!  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?

ARA RUNS THROUGH THE  
DARK WOODS AND  
BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF  
AS THE FAMILIAR SHACK  
COMES INTO VIEW... UNTIL...

WHAT'S HAPPENED  
HERE? THE INDIANS?  
MOTHER HASTINGS...  
WHERE ARE YOU,  
MOTHER...



IN HERE,  
ARA...  
HURRY...



YOU'RE **HURT!**  
LET ME **TREAT** THE  
WOUND.

NO... TOO LATE  
FOR THAT, ARA! MY  
**MISSION** IS  
FINISHED HERE.

QUICKLY... BEFORE  
MY TIME IS UP SEARCH  
IN THE CORNER FOR  
A BOOK. IT CONTAINS  
THE **ULTIMATE**  
**SECRET.**



THIS  
ONE?

YES, MY CHILD! I  
PLANNED TO WAIT UNTIL  
YOU WERE BETTER  
**PREPARED.** BUT **FATE** HAS  
TAKEN THAT DECISION **OUT**  
OF MY HANDS.

THE BOOK CONTAINS THE  
ULTIMATE **SECRET...** THE  
**DEVIL** HIMSELF WILL BE  
**FUSED** INTO YOU. TAKE IT  
AND GO... **QUICKLY!!**



WHAT'S  
**HAPPENING?**

GET **OUT...** THE  
**MASTER** IS **NEAR!** IT  
IS NOT MEANT THAT THEE  
SHOULD BE HERE WHEN  
HE **COMES** FOR ME!



HE'S **COME...**  
AND **TAKEN** HER!  
BUT I MUST GET BACK  
TO TOWN **AT ONCE!**

BUT THE TRIP **OUT** OF THE  
WOODS IS NOT AS **UNEVENTFUL**  
AS THE TRIP **IN** WAS...



SOMEONE  
FOLLOWING ME!  
**INDIANS?**





TURNING TO RUN IN ANOTHER DIRECTION, ARA IS FROZEN BY THE SIGHT OF A HUGE WOLF...

FIRST INDIANS! NOW THIS! I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!



AS ARA GRABS THE AVAILABLE BRANCH TO HER KNEES, THE WOLF LEAPS...

AND THE INDIAN MOUNTAIN PARTY...



DEAR GOD!



OLIVER!

QUICKLY...! WHILE THE INDIANS ARE OCCUPIED... COME WITH ME.

MINUTES LATER THE INDIANS EMERGE FROM THE TREES.

THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN! YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH THE OTHER WOMEN IN THE CHURCH. I MUST REJOIN THE FIGHTING.

BUT THE CHURCH IS NOT ARA'S DESTINATION.

SO THE INDIANS HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR IN THEIR FIRST CHARGE. I WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!



ACTING QUICKLY, ARA DRAWS THE SATANIC PENTAGRAM ON THE ROUGH WOOD FLOOR...

SOON I WILL NOT HAVE TO FEAR *ANYONE*... WITHIN MINUTES IT IS *THEY* WHO WILL HAVE TO FEAR *ME*.

BUT THE SMELL OF VICTORY TURNS TO DUST AS ARA TURNS A PAGE IN THE ANCIENT BOOK.

**HUMAN BLOOD!**  
I NEED BLOOD. WHERE IN HELL AM I GOING TO GET BLOOD? I CAN'T GO OUTSIDE WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF TO THE FIGHTING!

WHO'S *THERE*?  
IS THAT *YOU*, ARA?  
WHERE'S MOTHER?

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, LISBETH. IT'S ME... ARA.

WHERE'S MOTHER? WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE?

YOUR MOTHER HAS GONE AWAY. BUT I'M SURE THAT *YOU* CAN...

ARA!!!  
THAT KNIFE...?

... JOIN HER!!

GGGWWWAA

WITHIN SECONDS, AN EXQUISITELY  
CARVED GLASS CATCHES  
ENOUGH OF LISBETH'S **BLOOD**.  
TO ALLOW ARA TO COMPLETE  
HER **CEREMONY**...



I FEEL ...  
DIFFERENT... **POWERFUL**  
... **UNEARTHLY!**

YES, IT'S **THERE... REALLY**  
**THERE...** LIKE MOLTEN IRON  
KNIFING THROUGH MY VEINS.  
I'VE **MADE IT...** I'VE  
FINALLY BECOME A...

...**VAMPIRE!!!**



WE'VE  
DEFEATED THE  
**INDIANS**. AND  
TONIGHT WE ALSO  
ELIMINATE **ANOTHER**  
SCOURGE.

**QUICKLY,**  
OLIVER. **STRIKE**  
BEFORE SHE CAN  
WORK ANY OF HER  
DEVILISH  
**ENCHANTMENTS**  
ON US!



**OLIVER!!**  
YOU CAN'T MEAN  
THIS!! YOU KNOW  
ME!!

I SAW YOU  
**STRIKE DOWN**  
LISBETH WITHOUT MERCY!  
WE ALL SAW YOU  
**DRINKING HER**  
**BLOOD!**

IN THE FACE OF  
SUCH EVIDENCE, WE  
WOULD BE **FOOLS** IF  
WE DID NOT...



**NOW!**  
**STRIKE**  
**NOW!**

THROUGH  
HER PUTRID  
**HEART!**

...**ACT!!!**



IT'S UNFORTUNATE FOR ARA THAT  
THE STAKE USED TO KILL A  
**VAMPIRE** WORKS **EQUALLY**  
WELL AGAINST A **WITCH**, OR, FOR  
THAT MATTER, AGAINST **ANYONE**.



# EPILOGUE

THIS IMPRESSIVE AND **SNISTER** MONUMENT STANDS UPON THE GRAVE OF THE **VAMPIRE** ARA...DESTROYED ALMOST THREE CENTURIES AGO BY A **STAKE** DRIVEN THROUGH HER **HEART**.

BUT WHY A **MONUMENT** FOR SUCH A **HORRIBLE CREATURE**?

IT WAS PUT UP BY THE **COUNT DRACULA SOCIETY** TO COMMEMORATE ONE OF THE FEW **DOCUMENTED** CASES OF **VAMPIRISM** IN THE UNITED STATES.

BUT INTO THE BUS **QUICKLY**. IT'S GETTING DARK AND WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE.

IT APPEARS THAT ARA HAS BECOME QUITE A LITTLE **INDUSTRY** AROUND HERE. TOO BAD SHE ISN'T **AROUND** TO ENJOY IT.

OH, BUT I **AM** ENJOYING IT... **OLIVER**, DEAR!

**YOU!!**

THIS IS SOME **TRICK!** I POUNDED THE **STAKE** THROUGH ARA **MYSELF!** SHE **COULDN'T** COME BACK! SHE WAS AN **ORDINARY HUMAN!**

AN ORDINARY **HUMAN WITCH**, MY LOVE! AND WHEN THE **WOODEN STAKE** ROTTED AWAY AFTER 300 YEARS IN THE GROUND... I **ROSE** FROM THE **DEAD**... **THIRSTING FOR REVENGE!**

IN THE **FLESH!** HOW GOETH THE **VAMPIRE** PROFESSION THESE DAYS? UNFORTUNATELY I'VE BEEN **OUT OF TOUCH** AND UNABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOU.



WITCH OR NOT, YOU CAN'T STOP ME! THE SUN IS THE ONLY WEAPON WHICH CAN DESTROY ME. AND BY THE TIME IT RISES, YOU'LL BE QUITE STILL!



THEN IF THE SUN WON'T COME TO ME... I MUST GO TO IT!

MOTHER HASTINGS TAUGHT ME THAT WHENEVER YOU COME TO AN OBSTACLE YOU MUST...



...RISE ABOVE IT!! LET'S GO CATCH THE SUN, OLIVER.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! YOU'RE NOT A WITCH, ARA STOP THIS, ARA... PLEASE!!

I HAD A SATANIC MISSION ON THIS PLANET AND YOU DELAYED IT FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS! THE DEVIL DEMANDS HIS REVENGE...



...NOW!!

SOAHHH!!!

AND NOW FOR THE EARTH BELOW: THE SUFFERING, TURMOIL, INJUSTICE...! SO MUCH OPPORTUNITY. I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

# FLEUR

YOUR GRACE? THESE...THESE  
BODIES... OF MEN... WOMEN...  
ALL BURNED!

DON'T TROUBLE  
YOUR MIND, RUDYARD.  
CHELIDONIUS THE  
WITCHFINDER OF  
SPAIN IS ZEALOUSLY  
DOING GOD'S WORK.

## FROM THE SPAIN OF LEGEND!

WHO ARE YOU?  
WHAT DO YOU WANT  
HERE?

I AM  
RICHARD, EARL OF  
PARLAN, RETURNING  
TO ENGLAND FROM A  
PILGRIMAGE TO THE  
HOLY LAND. I  
REQUEST A NIGHT'S  
LODGING FOR  
MYSELF AND MY  
RETAINERS.

THIS IS NOT  
A HOSTEL!  
BE GONE OR...

NONSENSE, JOSE.  
INVITE HIS GRACE IN!

THEY LOOK  
WEARY FROM THEIR  
LONG JOURNEY.  
CHELIDONIUS  
REFUSES AID TO NO  
CHRISTIAN!

A RICH TRAVELER  
IS ALWAYS WELCOME  
HERE.

GO TO THE DEPTHS OF  
THE CASTLE AND BRING  
FORTH OLD WOMAN  
GIRALDA... IF SHE IS  
STILL ALIVE, I HAVE  
ONE MORE USE FOR  
HER BEFORE  
TOMORROW'S  
BURNING.

THIS YOUNG  
NOBLE'S RICHES  
SHALL BE IN MY  
COFFERS BEFORE  
ANOTHER SUNSET.

AS I WAS SAYING  
BEFORE WE WERE  
INTERRUPTED MY CHILD...  
BEING WITCHFINDER  
GENERAL HAS PUT  
ONEROUS DUTIES  
ONTO MY BACK.

I WAS FORCED TO PUT  
HUNDREDS OF YOUR  
NEIGHBORS TO DEATH  
FOR CONVERSING WITH  
THE DEVIL, AND BEFORE  
THIS AREA IS PURIFIED,  
HUNDREDS MORE MUST  
ALSO DIE.

ESPECIALLY THOSE  
WITH LARGE ESTATES...  
WHICH YOU THEN  
APPROPRIATE.



YOUR **VOICE** IS LIKE THE  
TINKLING OF BELLS, LURA...!  
BUT I **DISLIKE** YOUR  
**WORDS!**

YOU HAVE DONE MUCH TO **BRIGHTEN**  
THE **NIGHTS** OF THIS HUMBLE SERVANT  
OF GOD! I SHOULD HATE TO DISCOVER  
THAT YOU **SERVE THE DARK FORCES**.  
I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CERTAIN  
**STEPS**. I AM, YOU KNOW, AN  
HONORABLE MAN.

YOUR  
COURTESY  
IS--

THINK **NOTHING** OF IT! MY  
GOD-APPOINTED TASK IS ARDUOUS  
AND ANY INFREQUENT VISITOR  
BRINGS A RAY OF **SUNSHINE**  
INTO MY LIFE



IN YOUR **TRAVELS**  
I IMAGINE YOU HAVE  
COVERED A LOT OF  
GROUND.



QUIET HAG...  
UNTIL YOU'RE  
NEEDED

... AND VISITED  
MANY **COVENS**.

**COVENS?**  
WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN? ONLY  
**WITCHES--?**

ARE YOU  
ACCUSING ME OF  
**WITCHCRAFT?**

THE  
ACCUSATION HAS  
**ALREADY** BEEN  
MADE... BY AN  
ADMITTED **WITCH!**

**CONFESS, HAG!**  
IS THIS THE **SORCEROR**  
WHOSE COMING  
YOU FORETOLD?

**YES! IT IS HE!**  
I **CONFESS!** HE  
IS THE ONE!

THIS IS  
**INSANE!** SHE  
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE  
**EYES** TO SEE ME  
WITH.





WITCHES DON'T  
REQUIRE EYES TO SEE.  
THE EVIDENCE AGAINST  
YOU IS OVERWHELMING!

YOU'RE A  
MADMAN!!

I SENTENCE YOU TO  
DEATH BY FIRE AT THE  
MASS BURNING...  
TOMORROW AT DAWN.

TAKE HIM AND  
THE HAG TO THE  
DUNGEON!



YOU AND THE HAG  
MAKE A GOOD PAIR!  
ENJOY YOURSELVES!  
DAWN COMES  
EARLY!!

FREE US!!

LORD  
HELP US!

WE ARE NOT  
WITCHES!!

DEATH TO HER!

REVENGE!!



THE HAG! SHE  
NAMED US AS  
WITCHES!

WE DIE TOMORROW  
BECAUSE OF HER!

PUNISH HER!

KILL HER!!

AAARGGGHHH!!

LEAVE THEM BE!  
COME MORNING WE'LL  
ALL BE DEAD ANYWAY.  
LET THEM HAVE THEIR  
RUN!

GOD!



WAIT!

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH  
TORTURE! HAVE  
PITY!



YOU ARE SO CALM... WITH DEATH SO CLOSE?

DEATH HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO ME. I HAVE SPENT EIGHTY THREE YEARS IN INCARNATION.

I AM FLEUR. I HAVE HAD MANY LIVES...AND I SHALL HAVE MANY MORE!

YOU TALK AS THOUGH YOU ACTUALLY ARE A...



...A WITCH? BUT I AM. WHY DENY IT. IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE. BUT I'LL HAVE OTHERS!

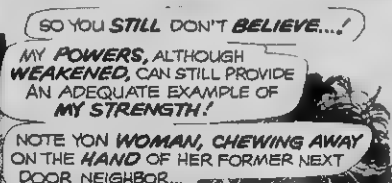
BUT I WON'T HAVE OTHER LIVES! I WANT TO ESCAPE... TO GET REVENGE ON THAT SLIME WHO PUT ME HERE!



THERE I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH YOU! THAT MONSTER HAS MURDERED HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!

WE NEED PRACTICAL PLANS... NOT WITCHLY DAYDREAMS!

THESE PIECES OF IRON STIFLE MY REVENGE... WEAKENING MY POWERS ALMOST TO IMPOTENCE!



SO YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE...!

MY POWERS, ALTHOUGH WEAKENED, CAN STILL PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE EXAMPLE OF MY STRENGTH!

NOTE YON WOMAN, CHEWING AWAY ON THE HAND OF HER FORMER NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR...



MANY TIMES IN RECENT YEARS, THAT OLD WOMAN WOULD TAKE TO THE WOODS AND OBTAIN... PLEASURE... AT THE EXPENSE OF ANY INNOCENT CHILD WHO HAPPENED TO CROSS HER PATH.

EVEN SO GREAT AN IRRATIONALITY AS THE INQUISITION OCCASIONALLY SNAGS ACTUAL CRIMINALS!







MUSCLE  
CONTRACTION!  
RIGOR MORTIS!  
A FREAK  
ACCIDENT!

ACCIDENT?  
IF SO, WHY HAS  
THE HAND  
CRAWLED  
THROUGH THE  
STRAW...

...AND  
GRABBED  
YOUR  
FOOT?

CONVINCED?

AAAA!

YES, DAMN  
YOU, FOR THE  
FRIGHT OF MY  
LIFE, FLEUR!

BUT GAMES  
WON'T SAVE US  
TOMORROW! THESE  
CHAINS LIMIT ME  
TOO CLOSELY... AS  
IRON DOES TO ALL  
WITCHES.

THOSE  
CHAINS PRESENT  
NO PROBLEM TO  
ME, M'LADY!

THIS SHARP  
BLADE IN THE  
LOCK WILL HAVE  
YOU FREE  
SMARTLY.

LURA, THE  
BURNINGS FOR  
TOMORROW LEAVE  
YOU UNEASY?

YES,  
VERY!

I SUPPOSE IT  
IS TO BE EXPECTED!  
YOU'VE KNOWN  
THOSE PEOPLE  
SINCE YOU WERE  
BORN... ALL FORTY-  
FIVE OF THEM.  
TAKE THIS... DRINK  
IT! IT WILL  
CALM YOU!

WHILE YOU ARE  
DRINKING THAT...  
ALL OF IT... I  
WOULD LIKE TO  
INTRODUCE MY  
NEW... MISTRESS  
TO YOU



AAAH! MY HEAD!  
IT BURNS!

THIS IS **CHASTITY!**  
SHE HAS JUST RETURNED  
FROM PARIS WHERE SHE  
STUDIED MANY... AH...  
**SKILLS!** I AM EAGER  
TO... **TEST HER!**

I... I **BURN** ALL  
OVER! **GOD HELP**  
**ME!**

I'M  
GOING  
MAD!

LURA  
GOES INSANE  
**NICELY!**

YES! THE POTION I  
GAVE HER **DEPRIVES** HER  
OF ALL **REASON.** HER  
SCREAMS WILL BE THE  
PERFECT MUSICAL BACK-  
GROUND FOR OUR FIRST  
NIGHT **TOGETHER...**

AND IN THE **DEPTHS** OF THE SAME  
CASTLE, IT HAS BEEN A **LONG** NIGHT  
FOR **OTHERS...** OTHERS WHO HAVE  
**NOT BEEN IDLE!**

EVERYBODY  
UP!

THIS IS THE  
DAY YOU ALL GO  
TO **HELL!**



YOUR HANDS ARE  
**FREE!** USE YOUR  
**POWER NOW!**  
BEFORE WE DIE!

PATIENCE,  
RICHARD! **REVENGE**  
IS AN **ART!** FOR  
MAXIMUM EFFECT IT  
MUST BE HANDLED  
PROPERLY

YOU LYING— YOU  
WERE TOYING WITH  
ME YOU'VE NO MORE  
POWERS THAT I.



STOP THIS  
MADNESS! UNHAND  
ME! I'M AN ENGLISH  
NOBLEMAN!

QUIET!  
BEFORE THE  
INQUISITION ALL  
WITCHES ARE  
TREATED EQUALLY!

... ALL ARE  
BURNED.



KISS THE  
CRUCIFIX AND  
PRAY FOR GOD'S  
MERCY!

... WHEN MY  
OWN POWERS ARE  
MORE THAN ADEQUATE  
TO MEET THE...

... SITUATION!


BACK OFF  
WANTON! I HAVE  
NO NEED OF CHEAP  
SYMBOLISM...

A WEAK BLAST  
WILL SUFFICE TO  
FREE YOU FROM  
YOUR BONDS.

MANY THANKS!  
I WAS A FOOL  
TO DOUBT  
YOU!

A MORE  
POWERFUL  
BLAST WILL  
TEACH THEM  
SOME  
RESPECT!!

A WITCH IS  
FREE! DESTROY  
HER!



HEAR ME, DARK  
ONE, FREE THE INNOCENTS  
ACCUSED OF WALKING  
OUR PATH. RAVAGE THIS  
PLACE AND ALL THOSE  
WHO PRACTICE  
EVIL HERE!

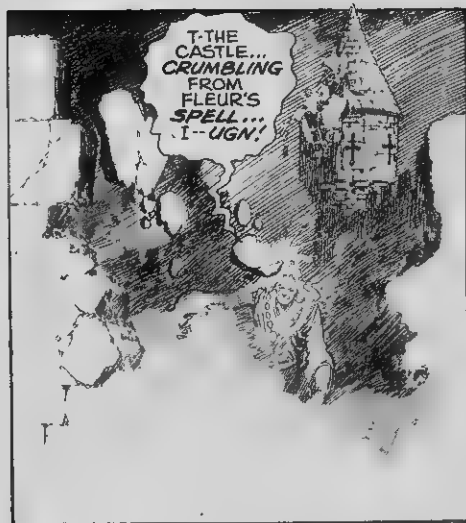
NOW...TO BALANCE  
AGAIN THE SCALES OF  
JUSTICE.

GOD HELP ME!  
SHE **WAS** A  
WITCH!

L'LOOK OUT!  
THE STATUE...  
FALLING!!

NNNOOOOOOOO





T-THE  
CASTLE...  
CRUMBLING  
FROM  
FLEUR'S  
SPELL...  
I--UGN!



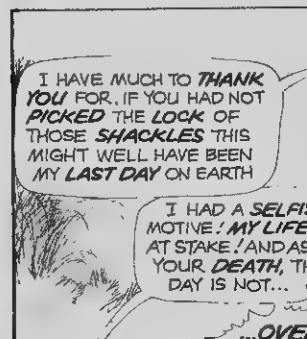
WHA...?

BE CALM.  
THE WALLS  
COLLAPSED.  
YOU WERE HIT  
BY SOME  
DEBRIS.



THE CASTLE...  
**DESTROYED!** YOUR  
POWERS MUST BE  
VERY **GREAT**  
INDEED, FLEUR!

THEY ARE  
ADEQUATE.  
**COME!** I FOUND  
TWO HORSES  
FOR US.



I HAVE MUCH TO **THANK**  
YOU FOR. IF YOU HAD NOT  
**PICKED** THE **LOCK** OF  
THOSE **SHACKLES** THIS  
MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN  
MY **LAST DAY** ON EARTH

I HAD A **SELFISH**  
MOTIVE! MY **LIFE** WAS  
AT STAKE! AND AS FOR  
YOUR **DEATH**, THE  
DAY IS NOT...

...OVER...

BUT YOUR  
**LIFE IS!**

WHY? **WHY?**  
I... I SAVED YOU...  
**SPARED** YOU...

IT'S NOT A  
MATTER OF  
PREFERENCE... BUT  
RATHER OF **DUTY!**  
IN MY HOME COUNTRY  
I AM A **WITCHFINDER!**



AS THE  
**HOLY BOOK**  
SAYS--  
**EH?**



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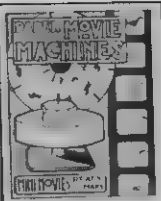


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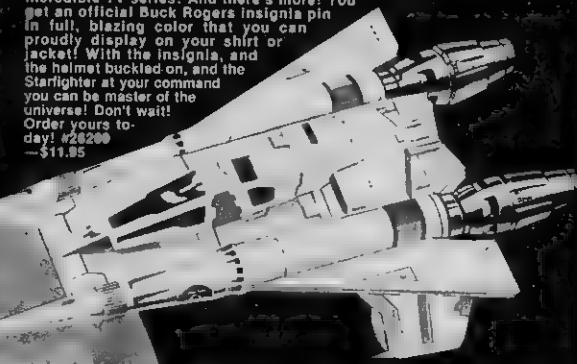
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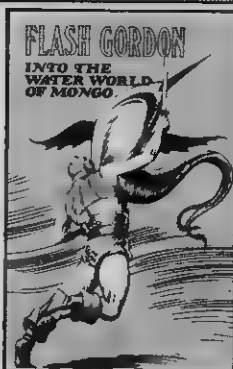
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LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS GIRL...  
SHE IS A WITCH, AND HER  
POWERS ARE GREAT. IN  
SERVICE OF THE DARK FORCES  
SHE LIVES IN MANY LANDS  
AND MANY AGES. SHE IS  
ETERNAL. SHE IS...

# FLEUR

MICKEY? IT'S  
ME... FLEUR!

ARE YOU IN  
HERE MICKEY? I  
CAME LIKE YOU  
ASKED

OUR TARTS  
WERE YOUNG AND GAY!

KEEP T QUIET,  
FLEUR, I'M RIGHT  
BESIDE YOU.

EEEE!!

FROM SCAM OF  
THE INQUISITION,  
MYSTIC POWER  
HAS CARRIED  
FLEUR TO  
BOSTON OF  
THE NINETEENTH  
CENTURY...

TO A SOME-  
WHAT SHADY  
CONFERENCE  
WITH A FRIEND  
...AND WARLOCK!

HA! HA! HA! YOU SURE  
**SCARED** THE STUFFING OUT  
OF ME, MICKEY. WHY THE  
SILLY **DISGUISE?**

YOU WOULDN'T LAUGH  
IF YOU KNEW HOW **HEMMED**  
IN OUR **DARK FORCES** ARE IN  
THIS CITY! THIS WAS THE ONLY  
WAY I COULD SEE YOU  
WITHOUT BEING **CAUGHT!**

THEN YOU MUST  
HAVE **CALLED ME** FOR  
SOMETHING MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN SEX  
UNDER THE STARS!

YOU'RE A **CLEVER**  
GIRL, FLEUR... AND  
**UNKNOWN** IN THIS  
CITY... THE ONLY PERSON  
WHO COULD **DELIVER...**

...THIS  
**ENVELOPE**  
WITHOUT AROUSING  
**SUSPICION!**

TAKE THE ENVELOPE  
AND STAND IN FRONT OF THE  
**GIRLS' BOARDING HOUSE**  
AT 2904 DOLWIN ST.

OUR **CONTACT**  
WILL ASK YOU "WHAT'S  
A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU  
DOING IN A **PLACE** LIKE  
THIS?" THEN YOU'LL  
**GIVE** HIM THE  
ENVELOPE.

SO, FOR SATAN'S  
SAKE, DON'T DO  
ANYTHING TO BRING  
**ATTENTION** TO YOURSELF!  
THE **FATE** OF OUR ENTIRE  
MOVEMENT IN THIS CITY  
**DEPENDS** ON YOU.

THE RIVAL  
**COVEN** WE'RE WARRING  
WITH HAS GONE **WILD...**  
YOU OUGHT TO **SEE**  
THE MONSTER THEY  
SEND ONCE THEY'VE  
A **LINE** ON ANY OF US!

MICKEY ISN'T TOO  
**CONCERNED** WHERE  
HE SENDS INNOCENT YOUNG  
**WITCHES**. I HOPE MY  
CONTACT MAKES GOOD  
TIME.

**GIRLS'  
BOARDING  
HOUSE**  
2904

**WELL  
NOW...!  
HELLO  
THERE!**



WANNA  
HAVE SOME **FUN**  
GIRLIE?

ARE YOU THE  
MAN I'VE BEEN  
**WAITING** FOR?



YOU DON'T NEED  
TO WAIT **NO MORE**. OL'  
McCARTHY HERE'S GOIN'  
TO SHOW YOU SOME  
**REAL FUN**!

UH... MR. McCARTHY...  
IF YOU'RE THE  
RIGHT MAN GIVE ME  
THE **CODE**! WHAT  
WAS THE **QUESTION**  
YOU WERE SUPPOSED  
TO ASK?



WE DON'T NEED  
**QUESTIONS**, CUZ I  
KNOW ALL THE  
**ANSWERS**... AN I'M  
GOIN' TA GIVE YA  
A FEW...

APPARENTLY THEN,  
YOU'RE **NOT** THE  
PERSON I WAS TO **WAIT**  
**FOR**! SO THIS  
INVOLUNTARY LITTLE  
TRYST WILL COME  
TO AN...

...END!



POOOFT!



HOPE NO  
ONE **SAW**  
THAT...

...AND  
THAT THE  
RIVAL **COVEN**  
DOESN'T  
**SENSE** IT!

>RIBBIT!<

THIS AREA IS MORE  
**DANGEROUS** THAN I  
THOUGHT. IF I CAN'T USE  
MY **MAGIC**, I'LL BE LUCKY  
TO **LIVE** UNTIL MY  
CONTACT **ARRIVES**.

>RIBBIT!<

I'D BETTER GET **OFF**  
THE **STREET**! HOPE MY  
CONTACT WILL HAVE ENOUGH  
BRAINS TO FIGURE I TOOK  
**SHELTER** IN THIS  
**BOARDING HOUSE**.

>RIBBIT!<





THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL!



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOW WHAT?



PLEASE, MA'AM, DON'T GIVE ME A FRIGHT LIKE THAT. I JUST WENT THROUGH A BAD EXPERIENCE.

WAS IT AT A COSTUME PARTY, DEARIE...? EVEN OUR GIRLS DON'T DRESS AS WILD AS THAT!

ER...YES! I WONDER... COULD... I ...RENT A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT? I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY... BUT I COULD DO ODD CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE... MY NAME IS FLEUR...

NOT BAD! GOOD LEGS...AND SHE'S YOUNGER THAN WE USUALLY GET AROUND HERE PUT HER TO WORK!

GOOD ENOUGH! MY NAME IS MRS. GRIMWATER AND THAT IS MY HUSBAND. COME WITH ME.



GIRLS, GIRLS! GOOD NEWS! WE HAVE AN ADDITION TO OUR STAFF. HER NAME IS FLEUR AND I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL ALL GET ALONG WITH HER. SHE'S NEW ...SO TRY TO SHOW HER THE ROPES...!



YOU JUST SIT HERE FOR AWHILE, FLEUR. GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE GIRLS

YES, MA'AM. YOU'RE VERY KIND!







CAN'T CAUSE  
**TROUBLE!** MUST  
WAIT FOR MY  
CONTACT.

PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, MRS.  
GRIMWATER. BUT I'VE BEEN  
HERE FOR THREE **HOURS**  
WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO  
DO TO **REPAY** YOUR  
GENEROSITY.

DON'T YOU **WORRY**  
ABOUT IT NONE,  
FLEUR. YOU'LL  
HAVE **MANY OPPOR-**  
**TUNITIES TO REPAY**  
**US** IN THE DAYS  
AHEAD. TONIGHT  
WAS A LITTLE  
**SLOW** THAT'S ALL!



THAT'S THE BELL FOR  
ROOM **FIFTEEN!** BUT WE  
DIDN'T **ASSIGN** THAT ROOM  
TO ANY OF THE GIRLS TONIGHT.  
THERE SHOULDN'T BE  
**ANYONE** THERE.



PARDON! IS THERE  
SOMEONE **IN** THERE? IF  
SO, HOW DID YOU GET UP  
HERE **PAST** US?

HAVE OWN  
METHOD OF  
ENTRY/WANT  
**GIRL!**

...**GIRL?**



YOU **HEARD** THE  
GENTLEMAN, FLEUR.  
IN YOU GO!

BUT...  
BUT...

WHAT DID  
YOU THINK THIS  
PLACE WAS...  
A **BOARDING**  
HOUSE?!

YES!

REMEMBER, FLEUR,  
OLD GIRL.. DON'T ROCK  
THE BOAT. DON'T ATTRACT  
**ATTENTION!** AFTER ALL  
... WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT  
A ROLL IN THE--

...HEY! W-WHAT'S  
GOING ON...?!

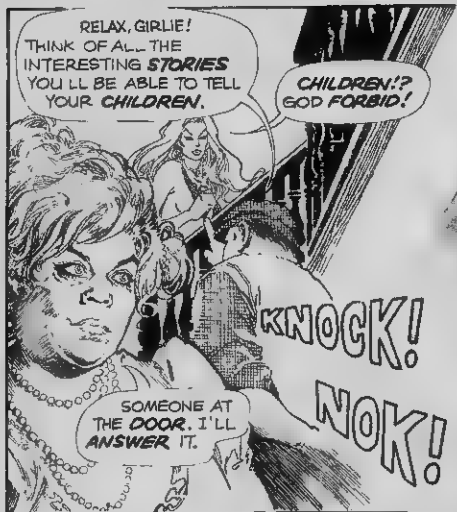
MRS. GRIMWATER!!!



UH.. I JUST  
REMEMBERED THAT  
I HAVE A SPLITTING  
**HEADACHE...**! I'M  
AFRAID I WON'T BE  
ABLE TO DO ANY...  
AH... **WORK** TONIGHT.

IT'S BEEN A VERY **NICE**  
EVENING... MEETING ALL THE  
OTHER GIRL'S BOY FRIENDS  
AND SUCH. BUT I REALLY **MUST**  
BE **GOING!** I'LL SEND A  
POSTCARD FROM **PARIS!**

**HOLD IT, LITTLE LADY!**  
WE GOT YOU **IN** THIS HOUSE  
AND WE AIN'T LETTIN' YOU  
**GO!** YOU GOT A **CUSTOMER**  
UPSTAIRS AND WE **DON'T** WANT  
HIM MAKIN' ANY TROUBLE WITH  
THE **LAW** ON ACCOUNT OF  
BAD SERVICE!







FLEUR!  
COME DOWN HERE.  
SOMEONE TO SEE  
YOU!

OH, THAT'S THE BOSS  
CALLING! I'D BETTER GO  
DOWN IMMEDIATELY!  
SHE GETS VERY  
IMPATIENT! I HOPE  
YOU UNDERSTAND.

PANT!  
DROOL!  
SLIME!



THIS  
IS THE MAN,  
FLEUR!

WHY FLEUR...  
WHAT'S A NICE GIRL  
LIKE YOU DOING IN  
A PLACE LIKE THIS?

IF  
YOU ONLY  
KNEW!



WE HAVEN'T  
TIME TO DAWDLE,  
FATHER. LET'S BE  
GOING.

A VERY  
GOOD IDEA,  
MY CHILD.



I NOTICED IN PASSING  
THAT YOU HAVE A VERY  
STRANGE NEIGHBORHOOD  
HERE. JUST AS I WAS  
WALKING UP YOUR STEPS  
I SAW THE BIGGEST  
FROG SITTING ON YOUR  
FENCE....!

WELL, GOOD  
NIGHT.. GOD BE  
WITH YOU!



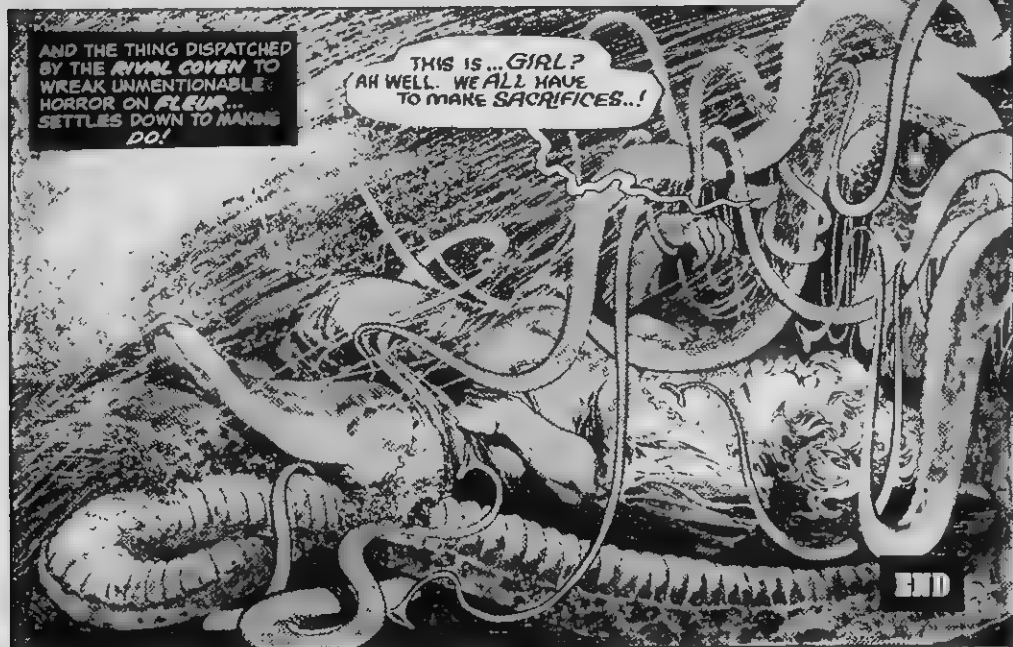
THANK HEAVEN  
WE GOT RID OF HIM!  
NO TELLING WHAT COULD  
HAVE HAPPENED IF HE'D  
HUNG AROUND. YOU  
BETTER--

THE BELL!  
YOU MEAN THAT MAN  
IN 15 HASN'T BEEN  
SERVICED YET? BUT HOW  
ARE WE GOING TO DO  
IT? ALL OF THE GIRLS  
ARE ON DUTY.



THERE'S ONLY  
ONE ANSWER!  
UP YOU GO!

ME!?  
WHY ME?!



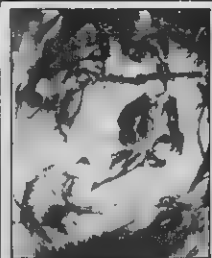
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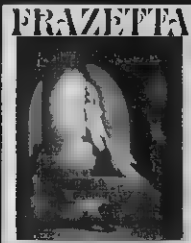


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Collect a  
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set of  
Frazetta's  
barbarians  
and  
voluptuous  
women!



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MARIA SHIFTED IMPATIENTLY, THE WALLS OF THE WAITING ROOM WERE GRUESOME-GREEN, YET THERE WAS SOMETHING SACRED ABOUT THE SMELL. THE CONTRAST WAS DISTURBING.

# FLEUR



NON  
WONDERFUL!

YOUR REACTION'S A LITTLE SURPRISING. MOST UNWED MOTHERS AREN'T EXACTLY OVERJOYED.



I WON'T BE UNWED FOR LONG. WHEN MY MAN FINDS OUT, HE'LL BE THRILLED! I KNOW HE'LL WANT TO MARRY ME RIGHT AWAY!

LIKE PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS, HIGHLIGHTS OF FUTURE WEDDED BLISS FLASHED ACROSS HER MIND AS SHE WALKED HOME. HER HAND INSTINCTIVELY WENT TO HER BELLY, TO FEEL FOR HERSELF THE NEW LIFE WITHIN.

THE LAST THING ON HER MIND WAS DEATH.



THE MAN WHO STEPPED FROM THE SHADOWS WAS UPON HER BEFORE SHE COULD EVEN SCREAM. HE WENT FOR THE HEART. MERCIFULLY, THE FIRST WOUND WAS FATAL SO SHE NEVER FELT THE OTHER SIXTEEN BLOWS.



# NIGHT of the ALLEYCATS

THE WITCH-WOMAN WAS GLAD TO BE ALIVE AGAIN. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SHE WAS CENTURIES OLD, THE LATEST OF INFINITE REINCARNATIONS, SHE NEVER GREW TIRED OF LIVING.

HER NAME WAS FLEUR.

SHE CAME TO SPANISH HARLEM A WEEK AGO, TO VISIT AN OLD FRIEND, DR. MARTIN BARRIS, A SPECIAL PSYCHOLOGIST WORKING WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I CAN TAKE, FLEUR! I'LL BE SHAKING MY BOOTY IN MY SLEEP!

EVEN AFTER ALL THAT MOVEMENT YOU SEEM TENSE, MARTY. IS ANYTHING WRONG?

ONE OF MY CHARGES HAS DISAPPEARED... FRANKIE PRADO. THE POLICE FOUND HIS JACKET NEAR THE BODY OF THE GIRL WHO WAS MURDERED LAST NIGHT

DO YOU THINK HE DID IT?

NO, I'VE HANDLED HIS CASE SIX MONTHS NOW AND I DON'T THINK HE'S CAPABLE OF KILLING ANYONE. I'D STAKE MY PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION ON IT. THE JACKET WAS PLANTED.





I **SUGGESTED** THIS DISCO, PARTLY BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS ONE OF FRANKIE'S HANGOUTS, BUT THERE'S BEEN NO **SIGN** OF HIM....!



STAND STILL, MARTY... WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU. WE'RE LOOKING FOR FRANKIE.

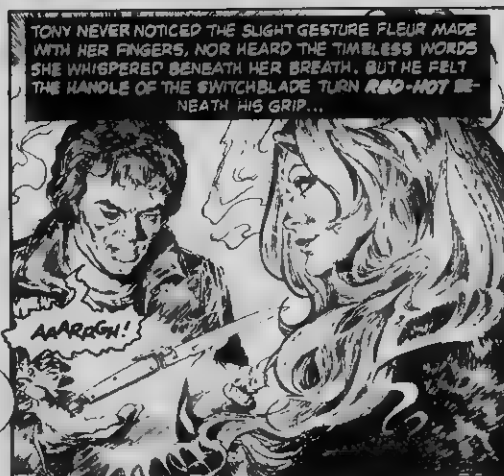
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THIS CITY HE'D TRUST ENOUGH TO TURN TO.

STAY OUT OF IT, TONY A LYNCHING CAN'T HELP ANY BODY....!



MARIA WAS MY **SISTER**. I DIDN'T LIKE HER HANGING AROUND WITH ALLEY CATS IN THE FIRST PLACE, NOT WHEN THERE'RE SO MANY TORCHES WHO'D TREAT HER R.G.H.T., BUT SHE MADE HER **CHOICE**....!

SEE WHAT HER LOVE FOR FRANKIE GOT HER? A BABY AND 17 HOLES IN HER BODY!



TONY NEVER NOTICED THE SLIGHT GESTURE FLEUR MADE WITH HER FINGERS, NOR HEARD THE TIMELESS WORDS SHE WHISPERED BENEATH HER BREATH, BUT HE FELT THE HANDLE OF THE SWITCHBLADE TURN **RED-HOT** BENEATH HIS GRIP...

AAARRGH!



THAT WASN'T NECESSARY HE WOULDN'T HAVE HURT ME IT'S **FRANKIE** HE WANTS... AND GOD **HELP** FRANKIE IF TONY FINDS HIM BEFORE I DO.

THE **TORCHES** ARE STREET FIGHTERS...VICIOUS, UNPREDICTABLE. FRANKIE WOULDN'T HAVE A **CHANCE**!

I LL NEED YOUR HELP IF I'M TO FIND THE BOY **ALIVE**.



FLEUR WONDERED IF THERE WAS A TEENAGER ANYWHERE ON THE ISLAND THAT MARTIN DIDN'T **KNOW**. THE **RAPPORT** HE'D DEVELOPED WITH THE YOUTHS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO HIM CONTINUALLY **AMAZED** HER.

THERE WERE TIMES SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS IN **LOVE** WITH THIS MAN.

JUST TELL ME HOW I CAN HELP. WE'LL START **TOMORROW**.



TOMORROW  
IS RESERVED FOR  
FRANKIE PRADO

SHE FIRST MET HIM FOUR YEARS AGO AT A PARTY HERE IN THE CITY. EVERY SO OFTEN SHE'D INTERRUPT HER TRAVELLING FOR A RETURN ENGAGEMENT, THOUGH HE WAS ALWAYS WARM AND AFFECTIONATE, HIS DEVOTION TO HIS WORK KEPT HIS SOCIAL LIFE TO A MINIMUM.



TONIGHT  
IS OURS



THIS IS WHERE  
FRANKIE LIVED WITH  
HIS GRANDMOTHER. IT'S  
ENOUGH TO MAKE THE RATS  
TURN ALCOHOLIC. !

MRS PRADO IS  
A SPUNKY OLD WOMAN  
...STILL BELIEVES IN  
WOOOOO. I DOUBT IF  
FRANKIE WOULD BE  
FOOL ENOUGH TO CON-  
TACT HER, BUT JUST  
IN CASE. !



MRS PRADO, I'VE NO  
DESIRE TO HURT FRANKIE OR  
SEE HIM GO TO JAIL. I ONLY  
WANT TO HELP. THERE ARE OTHERS  
LOOKING FOR HIM... ENEMIES. IF THEY  
FIND HIM FIRST, FRANKIE WILL  
PROBABLY DIE !

FRANKIE SPOKE  
OF YOU OFTEN. HE  
TRUSTED YOU STILL  
I DON'T KNOW WHERE  
HE IS.



IF YOU HEAR FROM  
HIM, PLEASE CONTACT ME  
IMMEDIATELY. YOU'VE  
NO IDEA HOW IMPORTANT  
IT IS !

DON'T WORRY, DR.  
BARRIS WHEREVER,  
HE IS, MY SPELLS PRO-  
TECT HIM. MY MAGIC IS  
ALWAYS WITH HIM.



SOON

WHAT'S OUR  
NEXT MOVE ?

EVERYTHING YOU NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT FRANKIE IS IN  
THIS FILE... ADDRESSES AND FULL  
DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS CLOSE  
ACQUAINTANCES.

CHECK THEM OUT WHILE  
I TALK TO A FRIEND OF MINE  
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

MOST OF THE BOYS ON THE LIST WERE MEMBERS OF THE ALLEY CATS, FRANKIE PRADO'S STREET GANG. BY MID-AFTERNOON, FLEUR HAD QUESTIONED NEARLY A DOZEN.



NO... NO, I AIN'T  
SEEN FRANKIE, *NOVEST!*

THEY WERE FRIGHTENED, ALL OF THEM. IF THE OLDER, TOUGHER TORCHES EVEN SUSPECTED THAT THE ALLEY CATS WERE CONCEALING THEIR LEADER, IT'D MEAN *OPEN WARFARE...*

FINALLY...

HE'S LYING, I FEEL IT! HE'S PROBABLY FRANKIE'S *CONTACT* WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO HIM.



THAT EVENING

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?  
SHE'S *ON* TO SOMETHING! IF  
WE STAY ON HER TAIL, SHE'LL  
LEAD US RIGHT TO PRADO!

I DON'T LIKE T. TONY.  
FRANKIE OUGHT'A HAVE A  
CHANCE TO *DEFEND* HIMSELF!  
MAYBE HE *DIDN'T* KILL  
MARIA!

LISTEN, TURKEY, HE  
WAS MESSING AROUND  
WITH MY SISTER, WASN'T  
HE? AND THE DOCTOR SAID,  
IN THE PAPER, SHE WAS  
*PREGNANT*, RIGHT?



DIDN'T THEY FIND  
FRANKIE'S JACKET,  
COVERED WITH *BLOOD*?  
WHAT *ELSE* DO YOU  
NEED TO KNOW?



SOMEONE'S  
*FOLLOWING*. TONY  
AND HIS TORCHES,  
NO DOUBT... GOD, THAT  
SOUNDS LIKE A 50'S  
*ROCK BAND!*

BUT IF TONY WAS  
IMPRESSED BY MY *KNIFE-  
HANDLE* TRICK, WHAT WOULD  
HE SAY TO MY *CHANGELING*  
ABILITIES...



...AND WHAT COULD  
BE MORE *INCONSPICUOUS...*  
OR *APPROPRIATE*. THAN AN  
*ALLEY CAT*?!

IN A RUN-DOWN, ABANDONED TENEMENT...



THERE WAS A LADY LOOKING FOR YOU TODAY, FRANKIE... A FRIEND OF DR BARRIS' SHE SAYS HE WANTS TO HELP YOU. MAYBE YOU OUGHTTA TALK TO HIM, HUH?

I CAN'T CISCO. THEY ALL WANT ME DEAD! THE POLICE THINK I'M A PUNK KILLER. THE TORCHES'VE VOWED TO SPILL MY BLOOD. AND THE MURDERER KNOWS THAT I KNOW WHO HE IS!



MEANWHILE IN AN ALLEY NEARBY...

WE'VE LOST HER! IT'S YOUR FAULT... MAKING ALL THAT RACKET! I OUGHTTA--

WAIT, TONY! ONE OF OUR WOMEN SAW FRANKIE'S PAL, CISCO, SNEAK'G INTO AN ABANDONED BUILDING WITH A BAG OF FOOD!



BACK AT THE TENEMENT...

FOR A LONG WHILE, I SUSPECTED THAT MARIA WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME, SO ONE EVENING I FOLLOWED HER.

I WAS RIGHT... HER LOVER WAS MY TRUSTED ADVISOR... DR. BARRIS!

I WAS FURIOUS. THE MORNING SHE WAS KILLED, I HAD GONE TO MARTY'S OFFICE TO CONFRONT HIM. WE ARGUED AWHILE, AND I STORMED OUT, LEAVING MY JACKET BEHIND.



LATER, I HEARD ABOUT MARIA'S MURDER... AND THE JACKET. BUT WHO'D BELIEVE MY STORY? I HAD TO HIDE.

SO THAT'S WHY BARRIS IS SO EAGER TO FIND YOU! TO SILENCE YOU. I'D BETTER--



SUPPENLY...

FREEZE, CISCO! I DON'T COME HERE TO KILL YOU. IT'S FRANKIE I WANT... FRANKIE'S LIFE FOR MARIA'S.

HE DIDN'T KILL YOUR SISTER, TONY. IT WAS--

GET THEM, TORCHES!!



WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE! SHE ASKED HERSELF HOW IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED. IS LOVE TRULY **BLIND**? CAN A MURDERER'S PERSONALITY GO **UNSUSPECTED** EVEN BY THOSE **CLOSEST** TO HIM?



SHE HATED BARRIS SUDDENLY, PARTLY FOR KILLING THE GIRL, BUT MOSTLY FOR DECEIVING **HER**. SHE HAD GIVEN HER BODY, AND A GOOD PORTION OF HER SOUL, TO **KNOWING** ANOTHER HUMAN BEING... AND SHE HAD **FAILED** MISERABLY.

THAT MADE HER **ANGRY**, AND JUST A LITTLE **IN-SECURE**.

STAND **BACK**, TONY! FRANKIE JUST TOLD CISCO A LITTLE STORY I THINK YOU OUGHTTA **HEAR** BEFORE YOU MURDER ANYONE!

Y-YOU'RE NOT HUMAN...

I'M MORE HUMAN THAN YOU ARE, RIGHT NOW!



FORGET THE STORIES. I WANTED TO KILL FRANKIE SIX MONTHS AGO WHEN I FIRST HEARD HE WAS GOIN' WITH MARIA. IF I HAD, SHE'D BE **ALIVE NOW**...

I WON'T **FAIL** TWICE! **MOVE IN!**



SHE HAD IT IN HER HEAD THAT THIS WAS ALL A **MISUNDERSTANDING** THAT IF SHE COULD **TALK** TO THEM A FEW MORE MINUTES, IT'D ALL BE STRAIGHTENED OUT, SO SHE **HELD BACK**.

TONY! TONY LISTEN TO ME!



ONLY WHEN HIS KNIFE SLICED HER ARM WAS SHE CONVINCED THERE WAS NO **COMPROMISE**. THE TORCHES WERE NO LONGER A HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUAL TEENAGERS TO BE REASONED WITH... THEY WERE AN EVIL, AUTONOMOUS ENTITY... A **GANG**.



HER **RAGE** AND HER **PAIN** EXPLODED SIMULTANEOUSLY. INSTINCTIVELY SHE LASHED AT THEIR HATRED WITH AGELESS VIOLENCE THAT ANSWERED THEIRS.

SHSSSS!

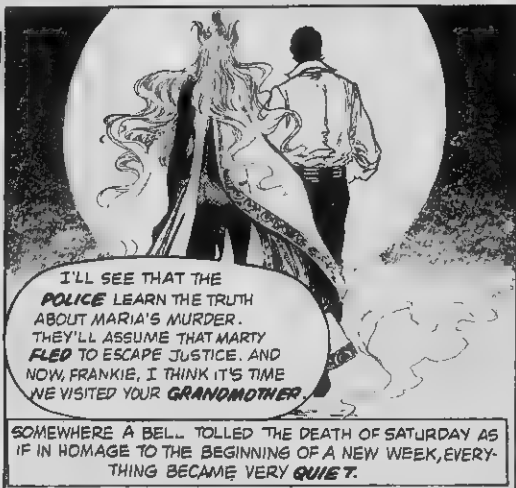
SSSHH!

AARRGGH!

LIKE THEIR NAMESAKES, THE TORCHES **IGNITED**. FLESH CRACKLED AND CHARRED... WITHOUT SMOKE OR SMELL... BURNING ONLY SKIN AND BONE. FINALLY, THE TORCHES WERE **EXTINGUISHED**.







# THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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**NEW!**

## THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK  
TURRET AND PROBOT PLAYSET

**TURRET AND PROBOT PLAYSET:** Watch out Rebels! Probot is looking for you! You can relive the dramatic battle on the ice planet Hoth with this deluxe playset! You can eject the Probot with the action lever that you control! For added thrills, there's a realistic Rebel Laser Gun-Turret. Action figures fit inside through the opening side door and into the hatch on top. Turret laser cannon clicks as it turns! Intricately detailed and colorful plastic Probot and laser Turret are just what you need to kindle your imagination and authenticate the world of your Star Wars action figures! Durable plastic will last for years! Action figures sold separately! #26297—\$15.95

## YODA ACTION PLAY SET

**NEW!**



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IN A FAR DISTANT CORNER OF THE GALAXY, ON A PLANET MUCH LIKE THIS ONE, THERE LIVED A **WARRIOR-MAID**, AN **AMAZON** OF ASTOUNDING **BEAUTY**, FAMED FOR HER STRENGTH AND CUNNING IN **BATTLE**.

YET, IN THE FULL FLOWER OF HER WOMANHOOD, SHE **WEARED** OF WAR AND BATTLES AND BOOTY AND, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF HER ANCIENT RELIGION, **LAID ASIDE** HER SWORD AND MADE A **PILGRIMAGE** TO OFFER HER SERVICES TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE HOLY CITY...

...THE CITY THAT HAD BEEN, UNTIL RECENT TIMES, ONLY A **LEGEND**.

AH, THE **HOLY CITY**!  
I HAVE FELT ITS CALL SINCE  
I **LEARNED** OF ITS SUDDEN  
APPEARANCE IN THIS BARREN  
LAND DURING MY CHILDHOOD!

MY WARRIORS  
WAYS WILL BE **FOR-  
GOTTEN** ONCE I HAVE  
PASSED ITS PORTALS, FOR  
I'M EAGER TO JOIN  
THOSE GODS OF **PEACE**  
WHO, THE LEGENDS SAY  
DWELL AMONGST  
ITS **SPLENDOR**!

HA! THERE LIES THE  
**CITY OF THE GODS**...SHIMMERING  
WITH UNTOLD **RICHES** JUST AS THE  
ANCIENT LEGENDS PREDICTED!

HO, **AMAZON**! BE  
YOU **INHABITANT** OF  
YONDER CITY?

NO! I HAVE JOURNEYED  
FROM AFAR TO ENTER THE **PRIEST-  
HOOD** OF THE UNSEEN GODS, FOR I HAVE  
**LAID ASIDE** MY **SWORD** AND WILL BE  
A **WARRIOR-MAID** NO LONGER!

# THE QUEST



BUT TELL ME, LORD.  
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT  
**BUSINESS** BRINGS ARMED  
WARRIORS TO THE GODS OF  
PEACE AND LIGHT?

I AM CSAN,  
LEADER OF THESE  
SOLDIERS. WE GO TO  
**RELIEVE** THE GODS OF  
THEIR MATERIAL BURDENS!  
HA! HA!

FOR DO OUR TEACHINGS  
NOT RELATE THAT THE GODS  
FLY MORE SWIFTLY TO THE  
**HEAVENS** WHEN GODLY MEN  
COME TO PARTAKE OF THEIR  
WEALTH?

BEING ESPECIALLY  
GODLY MEN **OUR-**  
**SELVES**, WE WILL  
PARTAKE OF IT  
**ALL!** HA! HA! HA!



MIGHTY LEADER,  
I BEG YOU, HARM  
**NOT** THAT HOLY CITY...

...FOR IS IT NOT  
WRITTEN THAT TO ENTER  
IT IS TO BECOME THE **FUEL**  
FOR THE GODS' HOLY  
WORKINGS?

HAD I A LESS  
**URGENT MISSION**  
YONDER, SHAPELY MAID,  
YOUR VIRTUE WOULD BE  
SACRIFICED TO FUEL  
**OTHER FIRES!**



HERE! TAKE THIS  
**SWORD!** YOU LOOK  
AS IF YOU KNOW  
HOW TO USE IT!

DEFEND YOURSELF  
FROM ALL BUT **ME**  
DURING THE **SACK**  
OF THE TEMPLE-  
CITY...

...FOR NOW I  
**DECLARE** TO ALL MEN  
THAT YOU ARE A  
**PRIZE** FOR MY SPORT  
ALONE, ONCE THE  
**LOOTING** IS  
DONE!

**CH-WANG**



ARROGANT BAR-BARIAN BEAST! I WILL SLAY YOU WITH THIS SWORD WHEN AGAIN WE MEET....!

...AND I WILL NOT STAND IDLE WHILE WAR-HAWKS ATTACK THE CITY! I MUST WARN ITS LORDS!



HA' HA' HOW QUICKLY A REFORMED AMAZON REVERTS TO WARRIOR WHEN A SWORD IS PLACED IN HER HANDS!

THE ARMY, HEAVILY EQUIPPED AS IT IS, MUST TRAVEL BY THE EASIER, SLOWER ROUTE DOWN THE WINDING MOUNTAIN ROAD...



...WHILE I HAVE RUN SWIFTLY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE!

ATTACK! ATTACK! THE HOLY CITY IS UNDER ATTACK! ARM! FLEE! PRAY!



I...I DON'T UNDER-  
STAND! THE CITY IS  
EMPTY...EMPTY AS  
A GRAVE!

CAN OWNERS OF SUCH  
TREASURES HAVE ABANDONED  
THEM TO INVADING BARBAR-  
IANS...



...OR HAVE THEY  
REPAIRED TO THEIR TOWERS  
TO HURL FLAMING MAGICKS  
UPON THEIR ENEMIES?

AH, I KNOW! SURELY  
THE PEACEFUL PRIESTS  
AND PEOPLE HAVE RE-  
TIRED TO THIS MAGNIFICENT  
TEMPLE, TO PLACE THEIR  
FATES IN THE HANDS OF  
THE GODS OF LIGHT!



I HEAR THE JINGLE  
OF BITS AND THE TRAMPING  
OF FEET BEHIND ME! THE  
BARBARIAN ARMY CROSSES  
THE BRIDGE INTO THE HOLY  
CITY! I MUST HURRY!

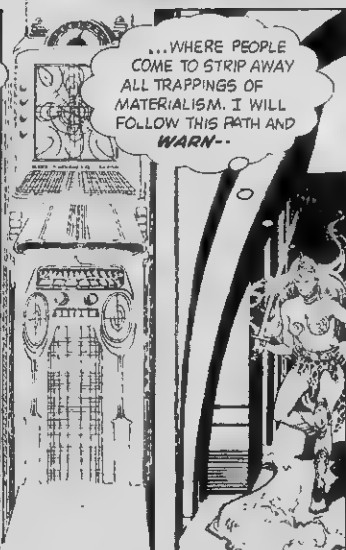
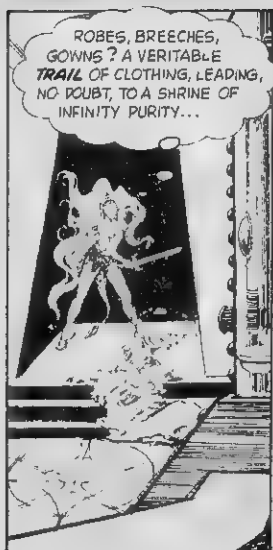
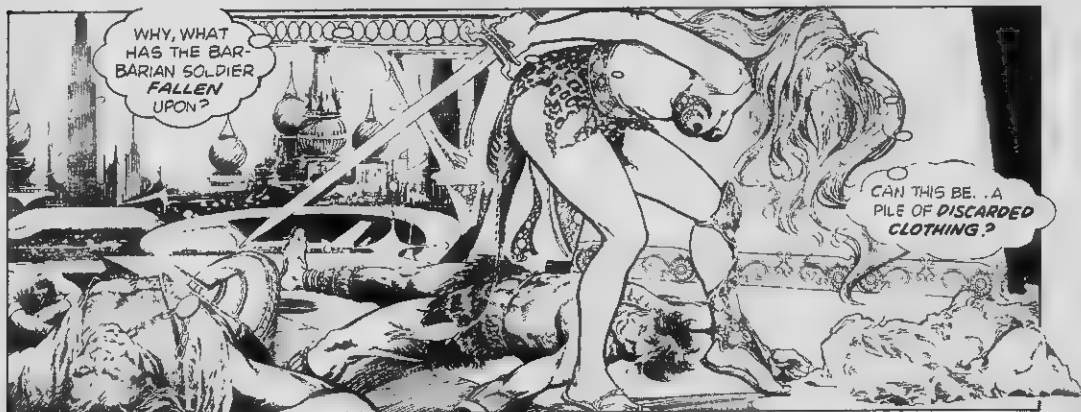



THEY ARE HERE,  
MY LORDS! THE  
BARBARIANS--

MY LORDS!!  
WHY! YOU ARE  
ALL DEAD!









WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING DOWN  
THERE?

HURRY, CLIMB UP HERE!  
WE HAVE NEED OF MORE PEOPLE!  
THE OTHER COLUMN IS TALLER  
THAN THIS ONE!

IT WILL DESTROY  
THE BALANCE! WE WILL  
NEVER REACH THE  
HEAVENS THAT WAY!

TELL ME, WHY  
SHOULD I CLIMB UP THERE?  
WHO ARE YOU ALL?

WE ARE BELIEVERS!  
LIKE YOU, WE HEARD THE  
CALL! LIKE YOU, WE FELT COM-  
PELLED TO COME AND SERVE  
THIS GREAT CITY!

COME, CLIMB UP! YOU  
WILL BE THE LAST! YOU WILL  
FLY WITH US TO HEAVEN!

IT IS YOU WHO DO  
NOT UNDERSTAND! EVEN  
NOW, WARRIORS HAVE  
INVADED THIS SACRED  
TEMPLE!

THIS ONE WHO  
FOLLOWED ME HERE  
I MUST, AT LEAST,  
DRIVE AWAY!

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?  
I CAME HERE TO WORSHIP...  
NOT BE A FACE ON AN URSINE  
TOTEM POLE!

TAKE OFF YOUR  
GARMENTS! JOIN US  
THEN YOU WILL UNDER-  
STAND!

FORGET THE  
BARBARIAN TERRORISTS!  
THERE HAVE BEEN  
OTHERS BEFORE THEM!  
THE CITY LURES THEM  
AND IT DEALS WITH  
THEM!



HA, WENCH! OUR LEADER MAY HAVE CLAIMED YOU ...

... BUT THAT HOLDS LITTLE MEANING IF HE IS NOT HERE TO FIGHT FOR HIS OWN!



AH, THERE IS THE BARBARIAN LEADER, CSAK! HIM I MUST KILL BEFORE ALL THE OTHERS!

LISTEN HOW HE RAVES! THE CITY HAS PUT HIM IN A MIGHTY TEMPER!

WHAT IS THIS RICH TEMPLE CITY? THERE IS NOTHING TO CONQUER HERE! ITS RICHES CRUMBLE AS WE TOUCH THEM! THERE IS NO ONE TO FIGHT!

ITS BUILDINGS WILL NOT TAKE FIRE AND ITS WALLS WILL NOT TUMBLE!



I AM MY OWN DEFENDER, SKUNK. SO DIE LIKE THE STINKING ANIMAL YOU ARE!

AND NOW I MUST SEEK OUT THE ARMY AND SLAY ALL I CAN!



I HAVE LAID SIEGE TO A SICK DREAM AND IT HAS LAID SIEGE TO ME...

...BUT I AM A MIGHTY WARLORD! I WILL DESTROY EVERY STONE IN THIS CITY IF IT TAKES FOREVER, THIS I SWEAR--

RRRRRRRR

WHAT'S HAPPENING? HAVE THE STREETS TURNED TO FIREY LAVA?



MY LEGS ARE AFIRE!

MY HIPS!!

INSANITY! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THE VERY OIL OF MY FLESH BOILS WITHIN MEEEEEE--!



WHAT PLACE IS THIS INDEED, THAT MELTS ENEMIES LIKE BUTTER, LEAVING ONLY SEEPING GREASE OF THEIR MEAT, YET LEAVES ME, A FRIEND, UNHARMED.

WHAT PLACE STACKS SERVANTS ON COLUMNS OF LIVING FLESH?

YES, MIGHTY WARLORD, THAT IS THE QUESTION.. WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

PERHAPS I WILL FIND THE ANSWER IN MORE CAREFUL PERUSAL OF THE TEMPLE THRONE ROOM.



THE TEMPLE DOOR...  
IT IS *DIFFERENT*...  
ALMOST *SHUT*, AS IF IT  
WERE *CLOSING* BY ITSELF,  
AS SLOWLY AS THE SUN  
SETS.



AND YOU, DEAD  
LORDS... YOU NO LONGER  
REMAINED *POISED* AS I  
LEFT YOU!



HERE IS WHERE  
I MAKE A *WOUND*  
UPON DEAD FLESH.  
I WONDER...

AH, HA! YOU  
*BLEED*... A  
SINGLE, TINY  
DROPLET!



NOW I BEGIN  
TO *UNDERSTAND* AND  
TO KNOW BETTER MY  
*DUTY* TO YOU!

INDEED, THIS  
IS A PLACE OF  
*GODS* WHERE MEN  
CAN BECOME AS *GODS*  
THEMSELVES!

SURELY THIS IS A  
*HOLY CITY* AND IT IS  
BOUND FOR *GLORY*, AS  
THE LEGENDS SAY!  
AND I SHALL BE *WITHIN*  
IT WHEN IT *ARRIVES*.



I CAME TO *WORSHIP*  
AND INSTEAD,  
I WILL BE... THIS NIGHT...  
A DISTANT *LAMP* IN  
HEAVEN.



AND AS SHE SETTLED UPON THE TOP OF THAT WRITHING MASS  
OF *GLOWING FLESH*, DEEP WITHIN THE CITY FIRE AND THUNDER  
ERUPTED. SHE FELT HERSELF *DRAINING*, FELT HER SOUL  
LEAKING, BEING USED TO LIGHT A *LAMP* TO GLOW AMONG  
THE *STARS*.



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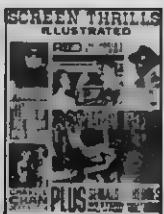
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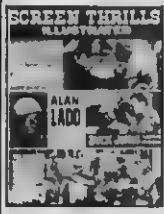
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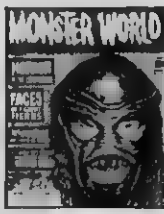
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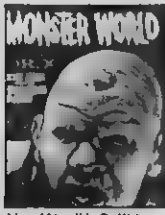
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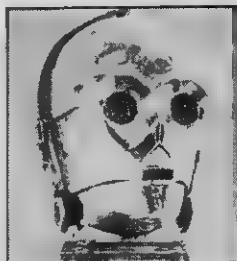
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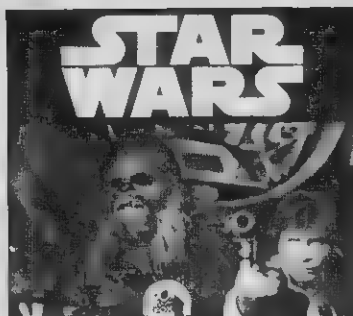


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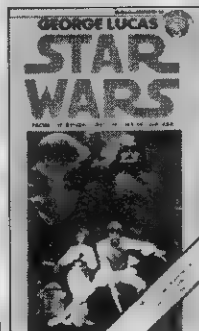
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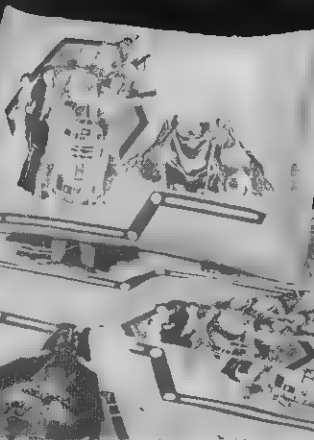
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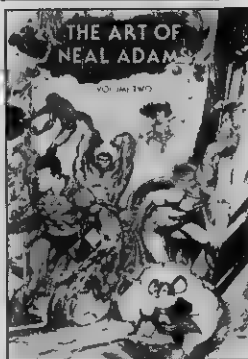
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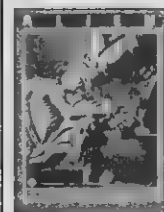
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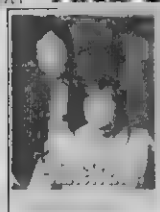
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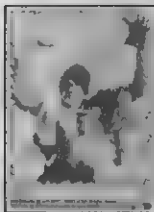
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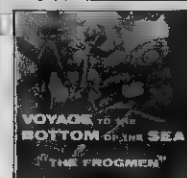
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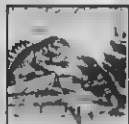
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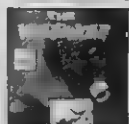


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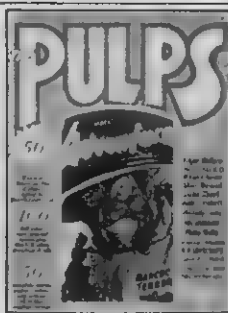


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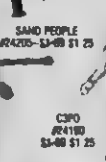
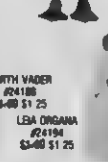
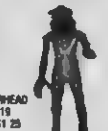
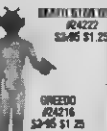
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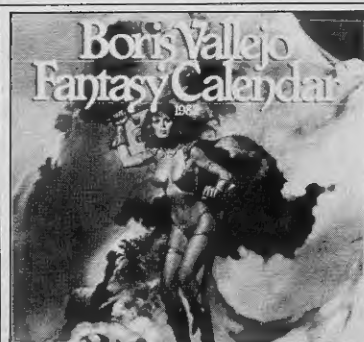
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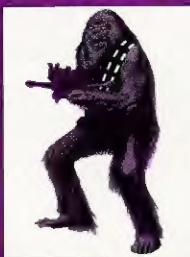
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